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Country: USSR

Subject: Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria

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2. "Cold grey eyes behind a pince-nez, pinched lips and the hands of a pianist -- that is what catches the eye in Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria. Intellect and hidden cruelty -- that is what makes him look like the perfect contrast to the butcher-faced Malenkov.
3. "Beria is an 'artist' in the NKVD torture chambers, a sophisticated sadist who not only finds some satisfaction in his shady and shameful job but even sees in it some esthetic values.
4. "His background is 'veiled by mystery'. Rumors have it that he is the son of an Abkhasian land-owner, whereas the official records speak of him as the 'son of a poor farmer'. He was born near Soukhoum (Abkhazia, Caucasus) on 29 Mar 99. While in high school he wanted to become an architect.
5. "Beria is not an 'old Bolshevik' in the usual sense of the word -- he joined the party after the October revolution. His natural henchman's talent opened the doors to his future career. In 1921 he was but an investigating judge but one year later became deputy president of the Chekian Georgia. In 1924 he was chief of the GPU in Georgia. For his 'glorious' participation in the bloody suppression of the rioting Georgian and Abkhasian Nationalists he was decorated for the first time with the Order of the Red Banner.
6. "Stalin's accession to power was another piece of luck. He knew by the hearsay of Stalin's pre-revolutionary activities and was enthusiastic about him. In his book (which was his very first and last one too) he extolls Stalin as the 'Lenin of Transcaucasia'. This book earned him the second decoration with the Order of the Red Banner (there were no other orders at that time) and the nomination to the post of the First Secretary of the Georgian Central Committee.
7. "During the years of Stalin's bloody struggle for power Beria's talent for 'party purges' showed him for his very 'best' side. The aim and purpose of his work was the physical destruction of all the old Lenin Bolsheviks, and he ruthlessly annihilated even his teachers and former friends. By striking a devastating blow against the 'Association of Former Political Prisoners' he also netted a handsome reward by confiscating for himself their luxurious villa in Soukhoum.

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8. "In 1937 he became Yeshov's deputy. He then soon advanced to the post of the NKVD's People's Commissar and some time later he was nominated Minister of the State Security Service. 'Yeshov's Mittens' were but very primitive and insufficient methods in Beria's opinion. His 'creative powers' cried for large scale activities. It was he who 'streamlined' the work of the NKVD and 'taught' them how to get hold of sufficient numbers of 'workers' needed for the 'great construction plans of the Stalin Era'.
9. "Beria's 'merits' during and after the last war World War II are 'spectacular'. He was the originator of the 'SMERSH' (an abbreviation of the anti-spy organization 'Down With the Spies') a super tcheka organization in army and state levels. This Tcheka-man by virtue of birth was also responsible for the 'tightening of screws' and for the Sovietisation of the newly annexed 'People's Democracies'.
10. "From this point of view his love for the communist brother-parties is almost pathetic. For this reason, probably, Stalin had also entrusted him with another matter of importance -- the leadership over the entire atomic research program. Beria did not disappoint Stalin -- by espionage and bribery he collected the missing links relative to the development of atomic weapons.
11. "In 1946 Beria was appointed Member of the Politburo and Stalin's deputy. He is seldom seen in public. His speech is slow and colorless but his command of the Russian language is better than Stalin's. The Malenkov, Beria and other tchekist disciples have now taken over the dictatorship of the Tcheka Leader Stalin."

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